



Hydrochloric Acid

The information contained on this document was obtained from a variety of sources including the EPA, State of New Jersey, ATSDR and Maine industries. The release data is from required reporting to THWRP, the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and to EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

What is it?

Hydrochloric acid is a colorless liquid acid with very corrosive properties. It is released naturally from volcanoes.

What is it used for?

It is used to make certain reagents for water testing, to clean liquor heaters and mud filters in pulp mills, and to dissolve steel mandrel from cathode filaments used in florescent lamps.

Sources in Maine?

Paper Mills, Power Plants, and Lighting Manufacturers.

Where is it released?

It is released to air when #6 fuel oil is combusted, when there is off-gassing from cleaning, and also stack releases from dissolving steel and metal cleaning.

Human Health Effects?

Hydrogen chloride is irritating and corrosive to any tissue it contacts. Brief exposure to low levels causes throat irritation. Exposure to higher levels can result in rapid breathing, narrowing of the bronchioles, blue coloring of the skin, accumulation of fluid in the lungs, and even death.

Environmental Effects?

Hydrogen chloride released to the atmosphere will be removed by rainfall. Hydrogen chloride separates easily in water into chloride and hydronium ions.

2001 Releases In Maine

444,633 lbs

For more information please go to these websites: